

# WOOD & TURNING

Issue 2 August 2013

Working towards a Western interpretation of Wabi Sabi

*Observations of colour and texture caused by nature,  
time or by accidental or incidental human intervention*

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# Introduction

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This is a visual essay produced using images of observed colour and texture combined with one or two of my made objects. These images interpret or are influenced by what my eye first saw and then the selective content of a recorded image.

Wabi sabi is untranslatable from the Japanese language. Wabi sabi is intuitive, elusive and a difficult aesthetic concept to describe from a Western perspective based on progression and reasoned argument.

Readers here who are interested should refer to available texts, using a book and an internet search, to find their own understanding of wabi sabi which is rooted in Japanese culture and spiritual beliefs.

Richard R. Powell describes a beginner's way of approaching of the subject - 'wabi sabi begins in the eye, then moves to the "I"'.

I have been studying wabi sabi plus other things Japanese and Asian for a number of years and this has partially influenced the approach I have taken in my work. I am happy to be so influenced.

The images I am presenting here are not all strictly wabi sabi but they will, I hope, serve to illustrate that our surroundings and the way we

tend to become blind to the familiar can affect what we see or ignore as opportunities to stimulate creative thinking and sources for new ideas.

Finally, as a visual essay in looking and seeing to encourage intuitive responses to visual stimuli, words attached to the following images would be superfluous and potentially misleading.

A short description of wabi sabi and some suggested reading can be found here:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wabi-sabi>

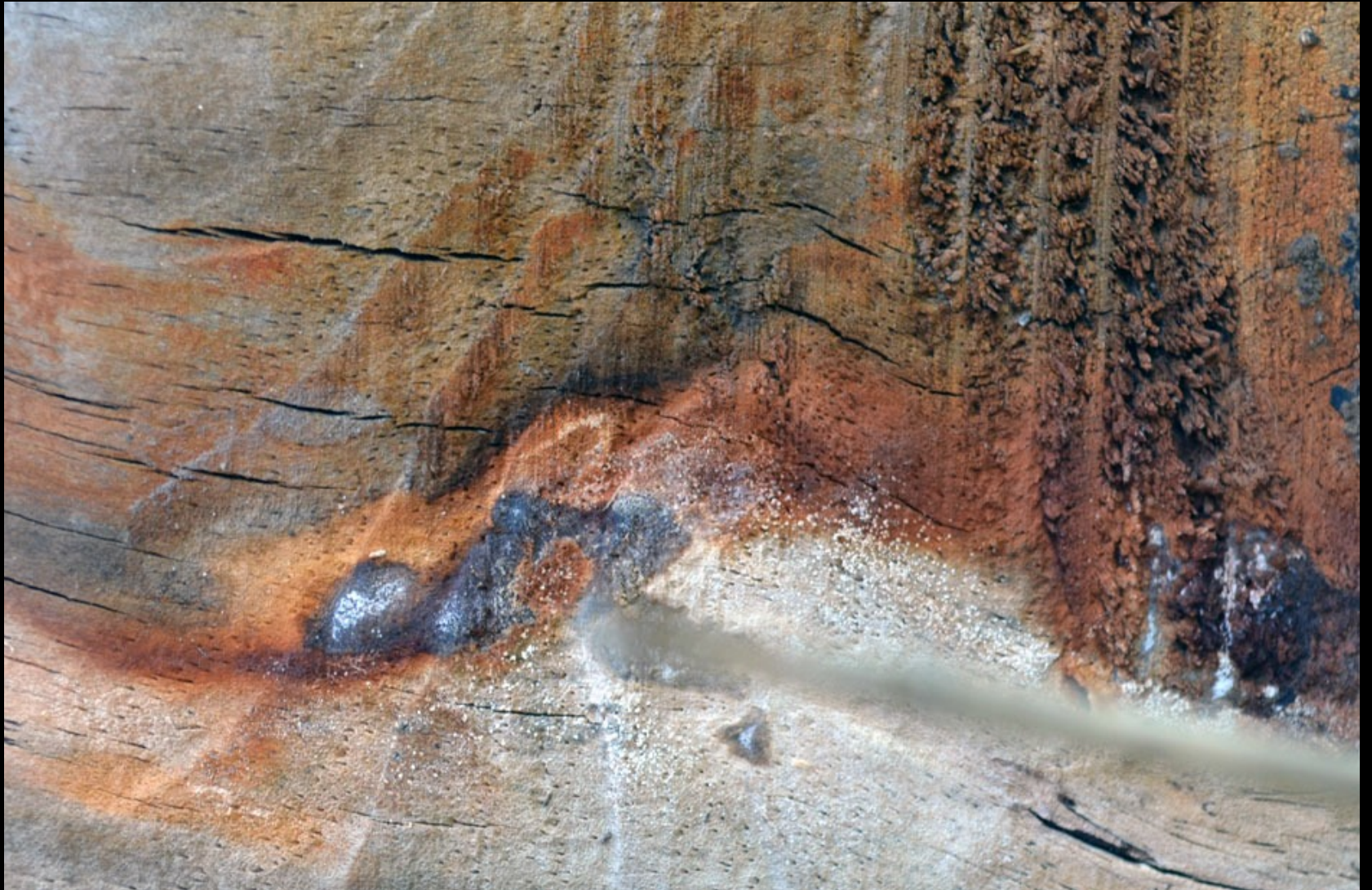
Other material both internet based and in book form can be found by using "wabi sabi" as a search engine subject. Other aspects of Japanese aesthetics can also be found quite readily.

Amazon has a number of books available.















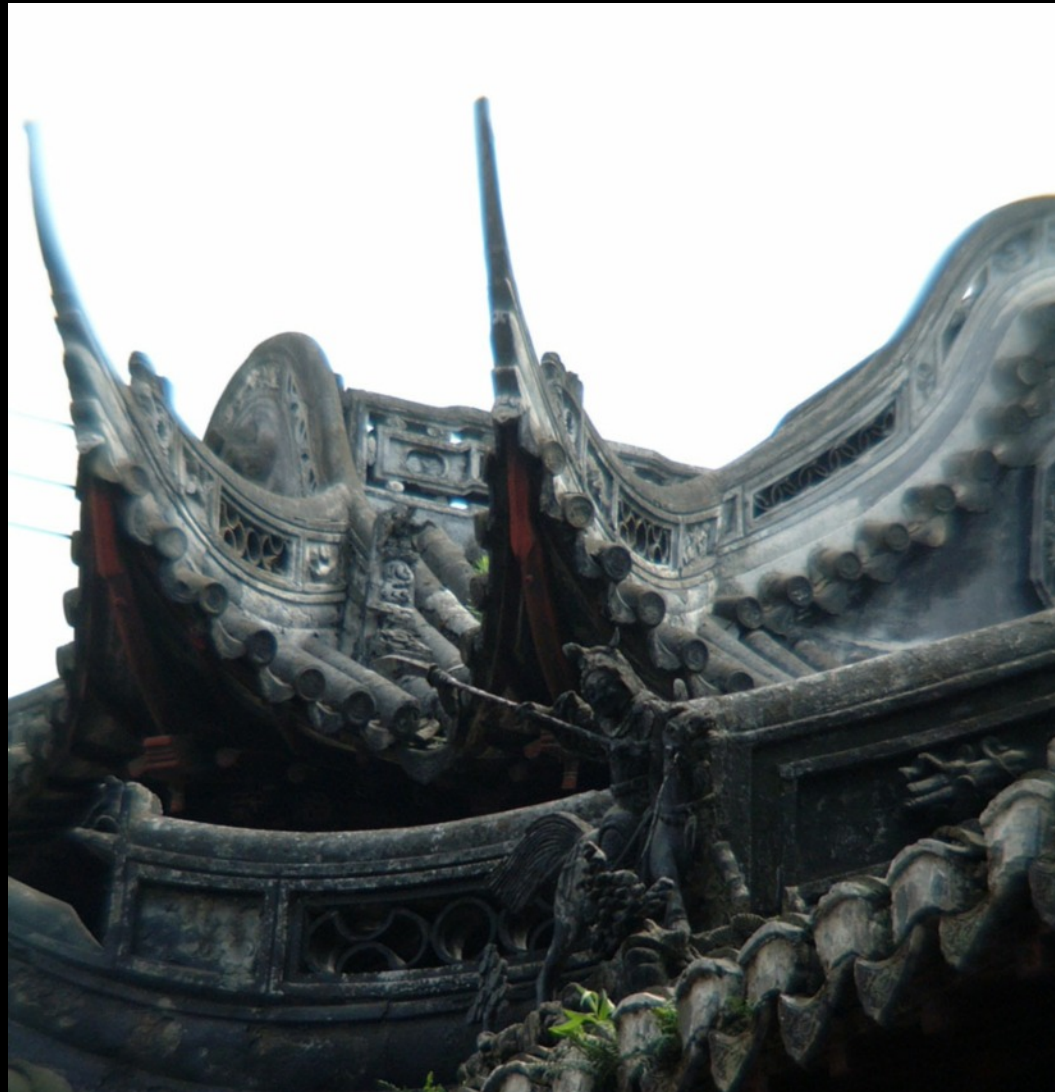
















































































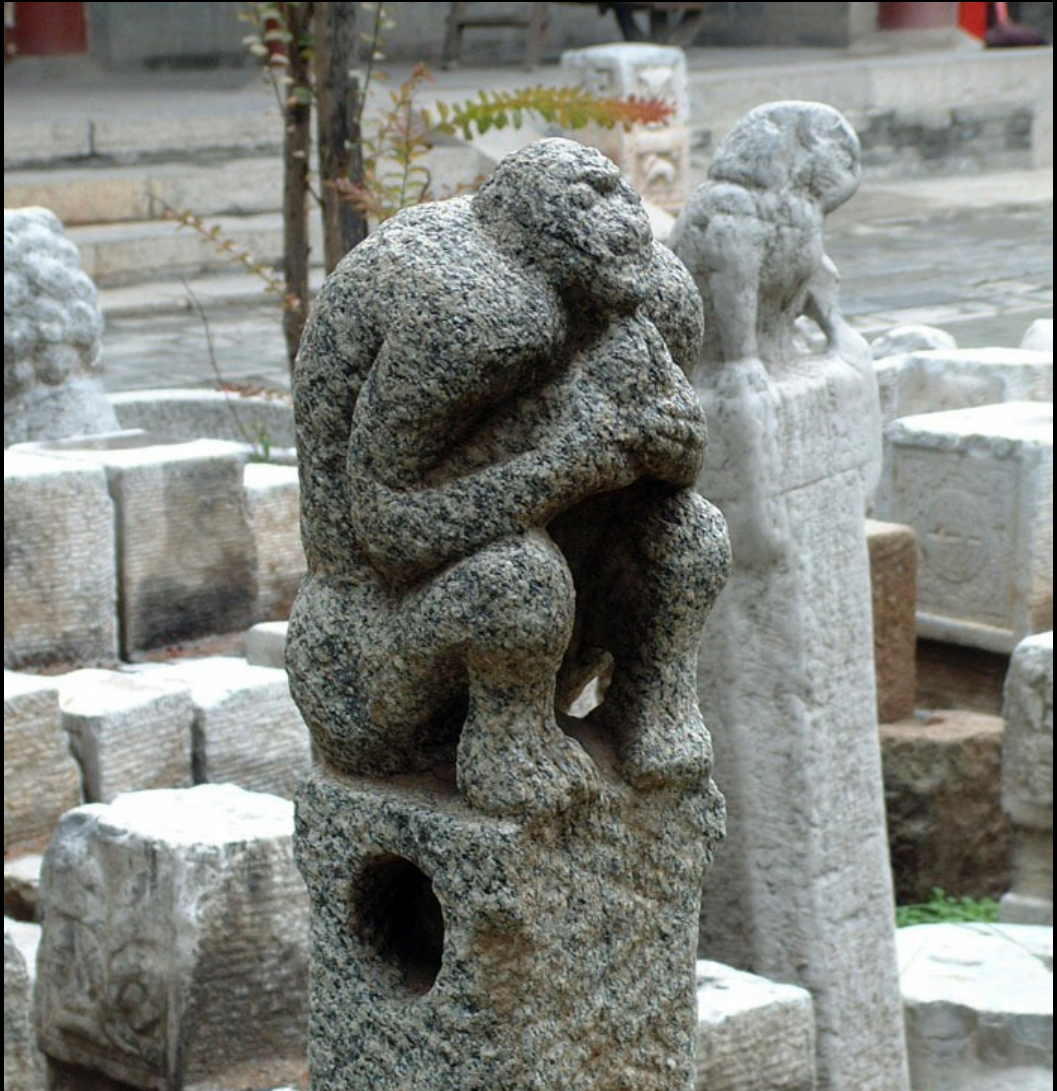






































































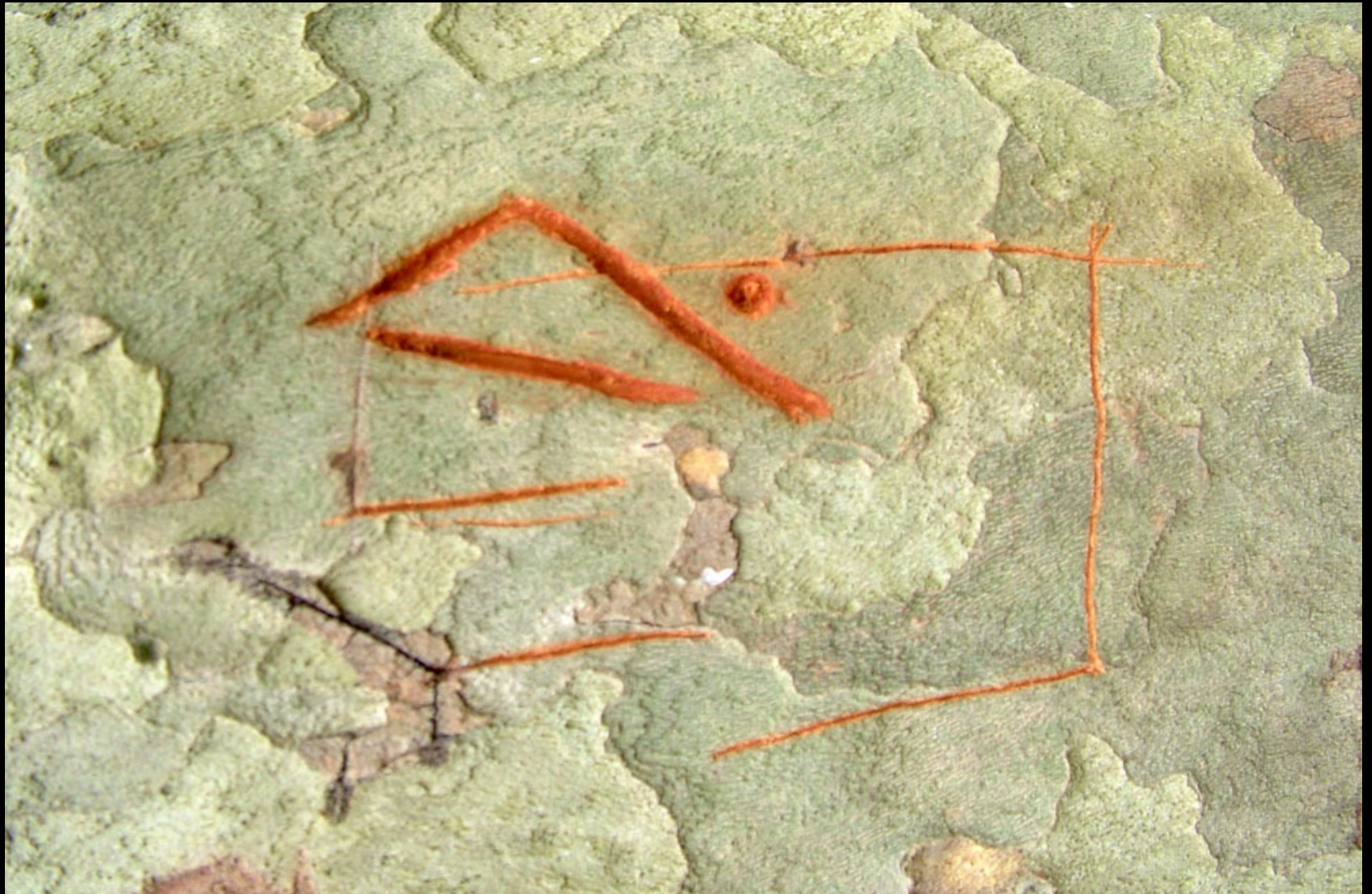






























































































Second in a series of illustrated publications

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